

History of Espionage Brought Up to Date

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SECRET SERVICE: Thirty-Three Centuries of Espionage. By Richard Wilmer Rowan, with Robert G. Deindorfer. Hawthorn. 786 pages. \$10.

This is a new edition of the late R. W. Rowan's "The Story of Secret Service" (1937), a volume comprehensive in scope, sophisticated in judgment, and graced with a deft, narrative style. Since there is still no comparable treatment of the subject in English, a properly handled second edition would have constituted a most useful tool to spy addicts and to those members of the intelligence community curious about the past of their profession. Unfortunately Mr. Deindorfer, a journalist personally chosen by Rowan as his collaborator, has not provided such a tool.

He has, indeed equipped the volume for the first time with an index, and this is a welcome addition. But then he has stripped it of all 29 of its illustrations (some of which may appear quaint today but all of which are legitimately introduced). He has deleted five chapters of the original text, and snipped away perhaps five percent of Rowan's extensive annotation in the rear. The re-

maining annotation he has left untouched. Since new material on all phases of the subject has poured forth from the presses in the last quarter century, a challenging opportunity to provide the book with a selective bibliography has been ignored. Moreover, in his own notes to the 112 pages of new text (World War II up to now), Mr. Deindorfer has opted to follow Rowan's annoying example of skimpy and truncated citations. For his own annotation he has cast a very narrow net, and too often neglects to offer source references at all. In general, this portion of the volume is characterized by inadequate coverage and commonplace writing.

But, as Allen W. Dulles affirms in his brief foreword: "Rowan's significant work is the best single account of intelligence services down to the time he wrote it. . . and it remains so today." Faint praise, but still praise.

—CURTIS CARROLL DAVIS